

To: Juett, Lynn[Juett.Lynn@epa.gov]
From: Vann, Bradley
Sent: Mon 1/4/2016 2:14:26 PM
Subject: FW: West Lake Landfill firebreak announcement?

Fyi...

Bradley Vann - Remedial Project Manager

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From: Lacapra, Veronique C. [mailto:lacaprav@umsl.edu]
Sent: Thursday, December 31, 2015 11:47 AM
To: Brees, Angela <Brees.Angela@epa.gov>; Washburn, Ben <washburn.ben@epa.gov>;
Whitley, Christopher <Whitley.Christopher@epa.gov>; Carey, Curtis <Carey.Curtis@epa.gov>;
Vann, Bradley <Vann.Bradley@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: West Lake Landfill firebreak announcement?

Angela, for my benefit, can you be any more specific about the time of the release?

More broadly: the EPA's entire approach to the firebreak announcement is very disappointing.

When I spoke with Curtis on the phone a couple of weeks ago, he specifically assured me that this announcement would NOT be made on either Christmas Eve or New Year's Eve. He also seemed relatively confident that the announcement would be delivered at a press conference in St. Louis, giving reporters the opportunity to ask questions.

In fact, the EPA is making this long-awaited announcement when Curtis and everyone else on your staff who works on the West Lake issue is out on vacation – as are many people in the press and the general public.

Not to state the obvious, but this kind of behavior only serves to reinforce the public's already strong distrust of EPA's handling of the problems at the landfills in Bridgeton.

Veronique

Véronique C. LaCapra, Ph.D.

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From: Brees, Angela [mailto:Brees.Angela@epa.gov]
Sent: Thursday, December 31, 2015 11:17 AM
To: Lacapra, Veronique C.; Washburn, Ben; Whitley, Christopher; Carey, Curtis; Vann, Bradley
Subject: RE: West Lake Landfill firebreak announcement?

Hi, Veronique.

I will have a release for you pertaining to an isolation barrier this afternoon.

Thanks,

Angela

Angela M. Brees, Deputy Director

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From: Lacapra, Veronique C. [mailto:lacaprav@umsl.edu]
Sent: Thursday, December 31, 2015 9:58 AM
To: Brees, Angela <Brees.Angela@epa.gov>; Washburn, Ben <washburn.ben@epa.gov>; Whitley, Christopher <Whitley.Christopher@epa.gov>; Carey, Curtis <Carey.Curtis@epa.gov>; Vann, Bradley <Vann.Bradley@epa.gov>
Subject: West Lake Landfill firebreak announcement?
Importance: High

Hello,

Acting Administrator Hague has previously said (on tape) that by today there would be an announcement about plans to build an isolation barrier (firebreak) at the West Lake Landfill, and that the EPA would also release a map showing the extent of radioactive contamination at the landfills.

At your earliest convenience, I would appreciate any information you can provide about this announcement: what time it will be made today; in what form the information will be provided to the press and public – i.e. as an emailed press release, or posted on http://www3.epa.gov/region07/cleanup/west_lake_landfill/, or in some other form; and whether someone from the EPA will be available for a recorded phone interview.

I also wanted to let you all know that I will be leaving St. Louis Public Radio to take a job as a science writer and multimedia producer at the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution on Cape Cod, Mass. My last day here will be Friday, January 8. After that date, please send any St. Louis-area EPA-related news to our general news account, news@stlpublicradio.org, to our acting news director Shula Neuman (neumanjs@umsl.edu), and to reporter Durrie Bouscaren (durrie@umsl.edu).

Thank you,

Veronique

Véronique C. LaCapra, Ph.D.

Science, Environment and Health Reporter

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